Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
11/26/73

Dear Jesse,

This past weekend I spent a few unpleasant moments with Jones Harris, who I tell you frankly I have never been able to figure. He gave me a lurid account of some ten minutes of cursing of me he attributed to you for a reason I simply do no credit, that I have not given you "credit." On this score, before I proceed, I have published nothing since our last and to me very pleasant afternoon.

Jones told me that he had told you I told him to use my name. I not only have no recollection of this and do not believe I have ever done this, I am sure I have not. Moreover, Jones had never been here and I am confident I have not seen or spoken to him since long before the last couple of times I was there. To the best of my recollection, the last time I saw him was prior to the appearance of Flammonde's sickening sycophancy about Garrison. That was long ago.

I neither trade upon friendships nor treat them lightly.

And for the life of me I can't think of any reason why I would send Jones to anyone. I am only too aware of the evil influence he exerted on Garrison and of his duplicity. In telling him this last Friday, to his face, I was more pointed.

There was once a time when I had a photographic memory. No more. However, what I remember I remember well. Despite our drinking I can right now give you an account of that very pleasant afternoon at the Commander's Palace, the people we were with, the conversation and what I did when I had to leave.

My first and third stops were Sal Panzeca. I think he will tell you that I spoke to him frankly, including frankness in telling him I was not telling him all I knew. My recollection is more than clear. I can recount the reasons for the delay in Sal and I getting together, what made it impossible when I first got to his office. I can recount much of what he said. My view that Shaw is among those who can still be hurt is unchanged. This is based on my knowledge of the past, not anything new. However, from what I do know, and what I know is confirmed, I can't conceive of anything that would change this. You and I talked much about Shaw, but that was, if you remember, not my reason for seeking you out. It was the Oswald demonstration. I never investigated Shaw and I never cast him in the role Garrison did. You should be aware that I refused to stay in New Orleans for the trial, although I was there when the jury impanelling began.

I remember writing you thereafter. These matters will have to await history's unravelling.

Jones' memory is not what it could be. He forgot things he had told me of his own political alliances until he had run off at the mouth quite a bit. When I reminded him he left. He did pretend to be a Bobby Kennedy man to me (and to others) but forgetting this he told me Friday that he had worked against Kennedy and for Keating and had voted for Nixon. I don't care what anyone's politics are and I have never voted for a Democrat for Congress here although I am a Democrat. I even voted for Agnew for governor. Jones' politics do not conern me. His lack of fidelity does. And I know of nothing he has ever done publicly that is not opposed to my own belief, beginning with his support of Ed Epstein and some people at Esquire. It is highly unlikely that I ever told him to use my name with anyone. If you are angry with me, I am truly sorry. Were I not, I'd not take time to write, for I do not anticipate I will be able to get to New Orleans again, I certainly have neither the plans nor the present capability.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold

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